

award is presented to alumni who have demonstrated continuing outstanding volunteer service to MSU and public service on a local, state, national, and international level. A year later, Mr. David was honored by the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University with the Outstanding Alumnus Award for distinguished service to business, education, and the public.

Mr. David continues to serve the community and through his dedication and hard work to the people of Michigan, he is a prime example of the kind of people that we need in our community. I congratulate David on his fine achievements and awards and wish nothing but the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION RELIEF OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS ACT OF 2001

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2001. This legislation is simple in its purpose. It grants the Secretary of Education specific waiver authority within Title IV of the Higher Education Act to provide necessary relief to those affected by the recent attacks on America and any subsequent attacks. This waiver authority addresses the need to assist students who are being called up to active duty, those active duty military being relocated, and those students directly affected by the attacks.

Mr. Speaker, our citizens have been dramatically affected by the attacks of September 11th. The Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2001 provides the Secretary of Education the ability to provide relief to affected individuals and institutions where it is deemed necessary while ensuring the integrity of student assistance programs. The Secretary may relax repayment obligations for our active duty armed forces, provide a period of time victims and their families may reduce or delay monthly student loan payments, and assist institutions and lenders with reporting requirements.

This bill is specific in its intent—to ensure that as a result of the attacks on the United States on September 11th, and the resulting national emergency declared by the President on September 14th: Affected borrowers of Federal student loans are not in a worse financial position, administrative requirements on affected individuals are minimized without affecting the integrity of the programs, current year income of affected individuals is used to determine need for purposes of financial assistance, and institutions and organizations participating in the Federal student aid programs that are affected by the attacks may receive temporary relief from certain administrative requirements.

This legislation will provide relief for the men and women of our military who are defending the freedoms of this great nation. As families send loved ones into harms way, the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act will allow the Secretary of Education to reduce some of the effects of that upheaval here at home.

The Secretary of Education will report to Congress on the impact of the waivers implemented as a result of this bill and he will also provide recommendations for changes to statutory or regulatory provisions that were the subject of the waivers invoked.

I am proud and delighted that 71 of my colleagues have signed on as original cosponsors of the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act. It is an indication of the Congress's commitment to our military and to our students and families, as well as to those on the front lines of making higher education available. I look forward to swift passage of this legislation.

IN HONOR OF SENIOR CITIZEN RESOURCES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Citizen Resources on its 30th anniversary of service to seniors residing in Cleveland's Old Brooklyn community.

Organized in 1971 as an activity center for the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Crestview Estates in the community of Old Brooklyn, Ohio, Senior Citizen Resources (SCR) quickly began expansion to better serve the entire community. Outreach began when the agency was awarded a nutrition grant to serve 150 people. Before this time there were virtually no services for the elderly in Old Brooklyn, and now SCR is the sole provider of services to over 6,200 seniors.

Senior Citizen Resources has long strived to, as their mission reads, extend independent living for elderly people residing in the Old Brooklyn area as long as they are physically and mentally able to live independently. To fulfill this goal, SCR has implemented programs and services in countless areas, including: nutrition, transportation, social services, and more. A staff of only 25 dedicated individuals administer these worthwhile programs while over 3,000 people utilize the activities.

One of the most utilized services is the Volunteer program of Senior Citizen Resources. Over 350 seniors provide volunteer work for over 30 Social Service Agencies in Cuyahoga County. These seniors contribute an average of 41,000 hours of service per year. Their dedication to the well-being of the community is staggering, and their commitment to serve their town is inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring such a worthwhile agency, Senior Citizen Resources, that has served so selflessly the Old Brooklyn community in northeast Ohio. The staff has shown incredible dedication and heart to the entire community.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF COLUMBUS DAY AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 30th anniversary of Columbus Day as a

public holiday and the 25th anniversary of our nation celebrating October as Italian American Heritage Month.

In completing his first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean over 500 years ago, Christopher Columbus changed the course of history for the American continent.

Today, the nation's estimated 25 million Italian Americans from all walks of life have left a permanent and undeniable mark on the history of America. From Alphonse Tonty, the co-founder of Detroit, Michigan to Joe Dimaggio, the famous Yankee slugger—and everyone in between—Italian Americans have contributed in countless ways to the greatness of this country.

As someone who has the privilege of working in our Nation's capital, I note with admiration the contributions of Italian Americans found throughout Washington D.C. The statue of Abraham Lincoln found in the Lincoln Memorial, was carved from 28 blocks of marble by a Neapolitan immigrant named Attilio Piccirilli and his five brothers. The interior dome of the Capitol Building was painted by Constantino Brumidi, an Italian artist. Union Station and the National Cathedral were built with the help of Italian immigrants.

Today, the strength of the relationship between the United States and Italy is a testament to the countless immigrants from Italy who made America their home generations ago. Whether it is U.S. military personnel stationed in Italy to assist in our efforts in the Balkans or Italian Foreign Minister Renato Ruggiero offering "no limitations" on Italian support of our anti-terrorism campaign in the aftermath of the horrific attacks against America on September 11, 2001, Italy is a key ally of the United States.

The history of cooperation between our nations date back to the some 1,500 men who fought in three different Italian regiments to help America gain its independence from Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. It is believed Thomas Jefferson's Tuscan neighbor, Filippo Mazzei, suggested the historic words found in the Declaration of Independence—"All men are created equal." Indeed, two of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Italian origin: William Paca and Caesar Rodney.

Even in some of the darkest periods of our history, Italian Americans have helped us learn important lessons. During World War II, we shamefully restricted the freedoms of more than 600,000 Italian-born immigrants and Italian Americans. From arrest to internment to confiscation of property, proud Americans were subjected to deplorable treatment because of their national origin. As we formulate our response to the recent terrorist attacks, policy makers are mindful of the lessons learned from our treatment of Italian Americans during the 1940s.

Italian Americans are an integral part of this nation's success. As America celebrates the holiday commemorating the great Italian explorer, I join in honoring the contributions Americans of Italian descent have made to our great country.